4. If the net earnings exceed the above guaranteed return it will be shared equally by the Central Railway and M/s. Central Provinces Railway.

(d) and (e). Since there is no lease, the question of expiry does not arise.

(f) to (h). Under the agreement, the Central Government have the option recurring at intervals of every ten years to purchase the line by giving the Company a twelve months notice, in writing on 31st March, 1947 or on the 31st day of March of last year of any subsequent period of ten years. The last such option was due on 31.3.96. The option was not exercised and it was decided on financial considerations that these Branch lines may continue to be worked by the Central Railway.

**Rail link to Hazaribagh and Dumaka**

1519. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect the Divisional Headquarters, Hazaribagh and Dumaka with the rail-line;

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be connected; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the 9th Five Year Plan period.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Misuse of Concessional Freight**

1520. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of misuse of concessional freight for 'sponsored' foodgrains by FCI have come to the notice of Ministry recently or during the last three years;

(b) if so, number thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such misuse by the Government agencies; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Konkan Railway Corporation**

1521. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Konkan Railway Corporation has shown favours to some private contractors working on the Mega Railway Projects and paid advances to them even before signing the contracts;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered into these irregularities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A committee of Executive Directors of the Railway Board is looking into various aspects of payment of advances and their recoveries, on the Konkan Railway project. The Committee is yet to submit its final report.

**Reservation Quota in Trains**

1522. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of representations for increasing the quota of berths at various railway stations in Gujarat for the trains directly connected with Delhi, Mumbai and Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard along with the details of quota to be increased for each train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as under :

| | Station/Train No. | Direction |
|---|---|---|
| Vapi | 2925 Paschim Express | Delhi |
| Amalsad | 42 Viramgram-Mumbai Passenger | Mumbai |
| | 9023 Janata Express | Delhi |
| Billimora | 9022 Flying Ranee Express | Mumbai |
| | 9012 Gujarat Express | Mumbai |
| Chappi | 9018 Saurashtra-Janata Express | Mumbai |
| | 9006 Saurashtra Mail | Mumbai |
| Jamnagar | 9018 Saurashtra-Janata Express | Mumbai |
| | 9216 Saurashtra Express | Mumbai |
| Dholka | 9006 Saurashtra Mail | Mumbai |
| Dhandhuka | 9006 Saurashtra Mail | Mumbai |
| Botad | 9006 Saurashtra Mail | Mumbai |
| Jetpur | 9006 Saurashtra Mail | Mumbai |
| Junagarh | 9006 Saurashtra Mail | Mumbai |

(c) The demands have been examined and additional quota of two sleeper class berths by 2925

Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express has been allotted at Vapi station. The quota available at other stations is adequate to meet the present level of demand.

**Night Train Between Jodhpur and Jaiselmer**

1523. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the night passenger train between Jodhpur and Jaiselmer has not been restored so far as the metre gauge track was converted into broad gauge in April, 1995 between these two stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce an overnight passenger train between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer during 1996-97.

**Delegation of Powers under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

1524. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have delegated Region-wise powers to Chief Conservator of Forests for giving approval for diversion of forest land upto 5 hac. for non-forestry purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and not to the State Governments;

(b) whether several State Governments have urged the Union Government to delegate these powers directly to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Chief Conservators of Forests (Central), Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment and Forests, have been given powers to decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except regularisation of encroachments and mining.

(b) and (c). Some State Governments represented before Sarkaria Commission for delegation of powers under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on the grounds that even small schemes got delayed while awaiting clearance from the Central Government under the Act.

(d) To cut short the delay in processing of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, revised guidelines have been issued on 25.10.92 which *interalia* include delegation of powers to Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except regularisation of encroachments and mining. They have also been delegated the power of initial processing of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha. in consultation with State Advisory Groups.

**Broad Gauge Conversion in Orissa**

1525. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals for Khurda Road-Bolangir new broad gauge rail link and gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge section in Orissa have been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned by the Government for these work; and

(c) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The works have been included in the Budget 94-95 and 95-96 at costs of Rs. 353.38 crores and Rs. 57.95 crore respectively. Khurda-Bolangir is expected to be completed in the 10th Plan period while Rupsa-Bangriposi Gauge Conversion is expected to be completed in the 9th Plan period.

*[Translation]*

**Manufacturing Capacity of Coaches**

1526. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise manufacturing capacity of Coaches in the country;

(b) the category wise number of coaches manufactured during the last five years upto March, 1996; and

(c) the details of category-wise coaches supplied as against the demand of coaches by the various Zonal Railways, zone-wise during the aforesaid period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are four Units manufacturing coaches in the country - two in Railway Sector, viz. Integral Coach Factory and Rail Coach Factory and two in Public Sector viz. M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. and M/s. Jessops and Company Ltd.